

On Society

In this essay I shall consider certain aspects of society relating to gender, sexuality, relationships, marriage, children and so forth. This is because it seems apparent that society as we know it is severely flawed.

Firstly then, I shall consider gender. What is gender? It is important to note that gender is not sex. Sex is a biological trait. You are male or female physically, biologically. This is something which is unalterable- you could of course undergo a sex-change operation, but really it does not change what you naturally are. All you are trying to do, I assume, is change how you *look* to correlate with how you *feel*- and how you feel is perhaps your gender. This matters not for our present inquiry. I propose that gender need not exist at all. Gender is societal- it is merely a label imposed upon you by your society. It is not needed. Sex is different. Sex is biological; it is a feature of you, like all of your other features.

If we remove gender, what happens? Well, nothing bad happens obviously. What it means in practicality is that we no longer have segregation of any kind. There is no sexism, no gender stereotypes. There would no longer be different images of a man or woman. These words would cease to be used. It would sound silly to say that someone who happens to have a penis is expected to usually have shorter hair than someone who does not, for example. Men and women would not use different toilets or changing facilities, would not wear different clothes, and would not use different beauty products; society would not have different ideas about them, they would not be expected to do certain jobs. They would become the same.

Now, I appreciate that this may at first sound bizarre. But is it intrinsically strange? No. If things had always been like that, it seems fair to say it would be considered normal, and if I were, in such circumstances, to suggest segregation it would seem very odd indeed.

That this would be better seems completely obvious to me, and has done for a long time. I also recall once being in a club which had only one set of toilets, for both men and women, and had urinals in the middle of the room, with people of different genders standing around chatting whilst they went to the toilet. I'm not trying to lower the tone of this essay, but I feel this point is helpful. I had always wondered why we have separate toilets for men and women, and seeing this place which did not conform to that was like a revelation- I felt enlightened. It made perfect sense. Why isn't everywhere like that?

It is incredibly, un-understandably, bizarre that this is not the case everywhere. And then I thought: why do men and women wear different clothes? This makes no sense at all. So, I would suggest we remove gender from our society. Imagine the changes: transvestites would not exist, perverts who like to go into the other gender's toilets would not exist, masculinity/femininity would not exist, society would not be segregated and divided, there would not be different expectations or social roles for men and women, people who are unsure of their gender or who want to change their gender would not exist (of course, physically someone may still want to be of a different sex), and finally: sexuality would not exist.

This seems good. It would not even be possible to persecute gays. Homosexuality would not exist. Bisexuality would not exist. Heterosexuality would not exist. In fact, everyone would be pansexual. Everyone would be open to relationships with everyone else. Now, of course, I am not so naïve that I think this would actually happen in every case, but it certainly would have the effect of making

society in general much more open and much more open-minded. Now, what is now considered a heterosexual man would still only be attracted to women for the most part (though presumably everyone is bi-curious to some extent), but this would not mean anything. Sex would become just like any other physical trait. Like hair or eye colour, or height. Whatever makes up your “type” would now include sex, but of course, there would be no problem with breaking from your usual type from time to time.

This may seem odd, but if this was implemented, within a couple of generations gender would seem a very strange thing indeed. This would be a hugely-improved society. There are obvious benefits for people who feel uncomfortable with themselves, and for people who are not considered “normal”, and the best part is: there would be absolutely no negative consequence for anyone ever! Why hasn’t this been done already? There really is no need for gender at all.

But gender is not the only problem I see with society. I shall not stray too far from this area in this particular essay however. Next, I want to discuss relationships.

It occurred to me one moment that people often have threesomes, orgies and the like. Yes, it is not unheard of for more than two people to be simultaneously involved in a sexual act. Now, under normal circumstances, the person someone *usually* is expected to have sex with is the person they are in a relationship with. So far, so good? I hope you see where I’m going with this. It isn’t too unheard of to have sex with multiple people, but I don’t know of any threesome relationships. This seems very odd indeed.

Why are relationships made up of only two people? I see no obvious reason for this at all. Would it be strange if three, four, five, or even ten people were all in a loving relationship, loving each other, engaging in sexual acts, living together even? I don’t think so. Imagine a child who had not just two but ten loving parents. I doubt anyone could realistically and honestly say this would be a bad thing.

And now I come to marriage. I dislike marriage. Firstly, as an atheist I see no reason to get married. But there is more. It is an antiquated institution indeed! It serves no purpose. If I love someone, do I need an expensive elaborate over-the-top pompous ceremony and a ring to prove it? I doubt it. But there are other problems. Marriage is a bond between two people, and two people only. And it is between a man and a woman. Why? I see no reason at all. Of course, gay partnerships are now considered acceptable, but it is not full marriage, and it is only for two people. I honestly see no reason at all for this.

There is a further problem still: marriage is binding. It is necessary to go through divorce proceedings to end it. Why? Why not just walk away from a relationship randomly one day?

What I propose is this: relationships can be made up of any number of people. There is no marriage at all. Children have many parents. I imagine myself living in a sort of commune, with a smallish group of other people. Say someone has a child: what now? Well, that child belongs to all of us. It wouldn’t even know who its biological parents were, because this would mean nothing. And if someone ever wanted to leave the relationship circle, they’d be free to do so at any time. Perhaps they continue to have a relationship with their child, perhaps they don’t. It matters not. It really depends on the circumstances.

There is no divorce, because there is no marriage. Everyone would have equal rights to be in a relationship with whomever they wanted. And of course, open

relationships would also be acceptable. I see no reason for exclusivity. This is another problem I have with marriage. I try to imagine myself in the following scenario: I have a wife, she cheats on me. What would I do? Well, nothing. I'd probably say something like: "I do not own you, you are your own person; you are free to do whatever you may wish. Perhaps next time I can be involved too?"

Why should people be exclusive to one another? I have no idea. And why is it wrong to sleep around? I say that it is not intrinsically wrong at all.

Of course, we would presumably all prefer if our partners did not sleep around with other people without our knowing. But still, this doesn't mean it's bad, and it certainly says nothing negative about my commune idea. Maybe if one person in the circle likes someone they can invite them into the group? Would it be considered cheating if a member of the group relationship had sex with an outsider? Well, that is of course down to individual circumstances and opinions, but I don't see it as being a problem.

Ok, finally, I wish to say something about having children. It seems to me to be common sense that no one should have children. Personally, I certainly don't ever want to have any. But my preference is meaningless to anyone who is not me. That is not my reason for saying no one should have children. My reason is as follows: having a child is unnecessary, and incredibly unacceptably selfish. Why ever would someone do such a thing? Obviously a woman goes through pain during child-birth, and her body undergoes various changes which are unpleasant and uncalled-for during the pregnancy. But this is not the only problem.

I want to clarify here, after a sufficient amount of suspense, that I am not proposing that we allow the human species to become extinct. No, far from it. I am actually proposing a measure which would benefit us. Adoption! This seems so obvious. There are children in the world who need homes, and families. Why would anyone selfishly choose to have their own child when they could kill two birds with one stone and adopt one? Of course, your child will not look like you, but does this really matter? I see no benefit in a child looking like me. I'd rather adopt a child who is in an orphanage or maybe a poor child from the Third World.

I honestly don't see why a) anyone would ever want to go through the process of reproduction, or b) how anyone could be so selfish as to insist on having their own child for purely superficial reasons when there are starving children in the world. That is an absolutely appalling thing to do! Shame on them.

Now, obviously, once every single child in the world has a family, we can then produce more without feeling guilty; or at least, without feeling *too* guilty. But we should still try not to have more children. Why? It's entirely obvious! There is no reason to have more children! There are enough people in the world. In fact, the Earth is probably overpopulated. We do not need such an abundance of people. People serve no purpose whatsoever.

Now, I know most of us probably would not like humanity to become extinct. That is perfectly understandable I suppose; although it would make no difference to anyone but us. Perhaps when our global population drops significantly we can begin having more children. But the world's population continues to rise. Why? Because people are not dying! We are living longer, we are curing diseases. But yet we continue to have more children. So the population goes up and up. Either have fewer children or let old people die. Personally, I'm in favour of not letting people die unnecessarily. So the only common-sense solution is to have fewer children. And even if overpopulation is not a problem at all, there is still no reason to actually have

more children in the first place. They are simply not needed. Now, that is not to say we should narrow our gene pool. But really, the amount of children people keep on producing is absurd. Once every living child has a family, then we can have a few more children, but there is just no reason to produce as many as we do.

Now that I have probably offended almost everyone who exists, I think I shall conclude. In conclusion: I have considered gender, sexuality, marriage, and children, and decided that we don't really need any more of any of them. I have also considered relationships and proposed great changes to them. All the ideas I have herein shared seem to me to be completely obvious and seem to make perfect sense. Anyone who disagrees would probably be a rather closed-minded individual indeed.

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